What is claimed is:

1. A method of encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the method comprising encoding at least part of a first picture of the sequence without reference to another picture of the sequence and encoding said at least part of the first picture with reference to another picture of the sequence to produce a corresponding temporally predicted picture.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein every picture or part thereof encoded without reference to another picture is also encoded with reference to another picture of the sequence.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first picture or part thereof is encoded with reference to another picture occurring in the sequence temporally prior to said first picture.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first picture or part thereof is encoded with reference to another picture occurring in the sequence temporally after said first picture.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first picture or part thereof is encoded with reference to one or more pictures occurring in the sequence.

6. A video encoder comprising an input for receiving a video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the encoder being arranged to encode a first picture of the sequence or part thereof without reference to another picture of the sequence and to encode said first picture or part thereof with reference to another picture of the sequence to produce a corresponding temporally predicted picture.

7. A video codec including a video encoder according to claim 6.

8. A multimedia system including a video encoder according to claim 6 or a video codec according to claim 7.

9. A method of encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the method comprising encoding a segment of a first picture of the sequence without reference to another picture of the sequence and encoding at least said segment of said first picture with reference to another picture of the sequence to produce a corresponding temporally predicted picture segment.

10. A method of video decoding comprising receiving a signal representing encoded pictures of a video sequence, determining whether a picture that is not temporally predicted or part of a picture that is not temporally predicted has been corrupted and, if so, monitoring for a temporally-predicted representation of the picture or part thereof and, on receipt of the temporally-predicted representation of the picture or part thereof, decoding the picture or part thereof with reference to another picture.

11. A video decoder comprising an input for receiving a signal representing encoded pictures of a video sequence, said video decoder being arranged to determine whether a non-temporally predicted frame or part thereof has been corrupted and, if so, to monitor for a temporally-predicted representation of the frame or part thereof and, on receipt of the temporally-predicted representation of the frame or part thereof, to decode the temporally-predicted representation of the frame or part thereof with reference to another frame.

12. A portable electronic device incorporating a video encoder or video decoder as claimed in any claim 6 or claim 11.